Volunteer Firemen

Professional Journal of the Volunteer Firemen's Section of the National Fire Protection Association

Volume 2, Number 12 **BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS** **December, 1935**

The early stage of the fire in the State Hospital for the Insane, Weston, W. Va., where effective work by volunteer fire departments confined the damage to a part of the wing south of the Administration Building shown.

Fire in an Insane Hospital

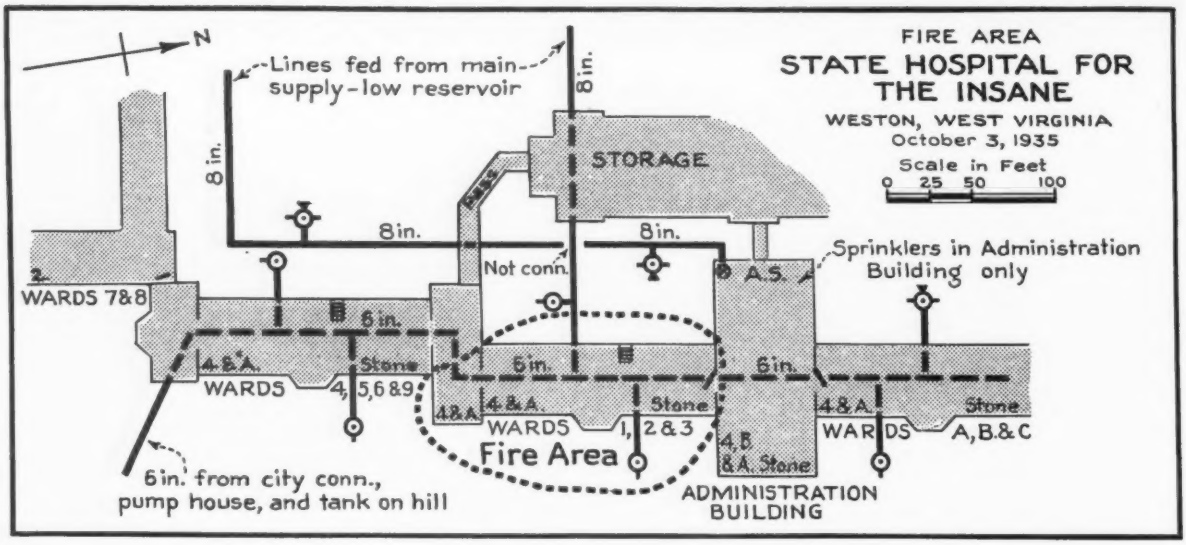
Volunteers' Advance Planning Makes Spectacular Success of Handling Fire and Preventing Loss of Life at West Virginia State Institution

AT ten o'clock on the morning of October 3, Chief Grey Marsh and 60 men of the Weston, West Virginia, Volunteer Fire Department (Member N.F.P.A.) responded to an alarm for fire in the Weston State Hospital for the Insane, which was about three blocks from the fire station. Fire was found in the attic over four wards of the main building.

This story is digested from reports by Chief Grey Marsh of the Weston Volunteer Fire Department (Member N.F.P.A.), and the West Virginia Inspection Bureau (Member N.F.P.A.).

Learning that 390 of the 1600 patients in the institution were in immediate danger, Chief Marsh rang the dinner gong and those patients who were able marched quietly and quickly into the dining hall and then out on the grounds. Those who were bed-ridden were carried to safety by firemen and attendants.

The possibility of a big fire at this hospital had often been discussed and planned for at meetings of the West Virginia Fire Fighters' Association, which was organized to promote co-



operation among fire departments within a radius of 60 miles from Clarksburg. A system of mutual aid and a running card had been drawn up for just such an emergency as this fire. The assistant chief immediately called for help from nearby towns as outlined by the prearranged emergency agreement. It worked perfectly. Departments from six towns responded.

A FIRE of this sort presents certain special difficulties. In the first place, while substantial in appearance, the construction of the buildings was far from fire-resistive, since all floors and the roof decks were wood. Fire could also spread as much as 200 ft. horizontally before encountering a division wall against which it might be stopped. The occupants of the buildings were not the sort who could be expected to behave like normal persons, and locked doors and barred windows presented added obstacles.

In fighting fire in such buildings by manual means—hose lines and ladders—a fire department does not have an even break.

Observers experienced in fire matters would not regard such institutional buildings adequately protected against fire unless equipped throughout with automatic sprinkler systems. The successful handling of the fire is undoubtedly traceable largely to the foresight of the fire department officers who had given study to the fire problem which this institution presented and had made plans in advance to handle it.

The attic sections were continuous for the entire length of each wing, with combustible ventilating towers about 100 ft. apart. The corridor walls were partly hollow and used as ventilating shafts. Interior finish of the wards was ordinary wood lath and plaster. The slate roof on light nailing strips was supported by light wood trusses.

The fire occurred in the men's wards 1, 2, 3, and 9, just south of the administration building. The north wing is occupied as the women's wards. In addition to the 19 wards in this main building, 12 other buildings make up the institution.

THE local volunteers went into action at the fire at once. Two lines were laid through stairways to the fourth floor, and another up a 55 ft. extension ladder to the roof—putting two lines directly under the fire and one above it.

Fire spread rapidly into wards 4, 5, and 6, due to the combustible, open construction and a high wind. Going south of these wards the firemen laid three lines to check further spread of fire. The hot spot of the fire was in Ward 9, which extended the full length of the top floor of this wing.

About this time a night worker was seen at a fourth floor window—trapped in his room. The smoke and heat apparently woke him up, and by that time the smoke was so intense that he could not find a stairway. The 55 ft. ladder was run up to him and before firemen could devise a way of opening up the cast iron grille which barred the window, the trapped man tore away the one-half inch bars with his bare hands and came safely down the ladder.

Outside aid began to arrive. Buckhannon made a run of 16 miles with an engine and 20 men in 20 minutes. This company laid three lines to the center of the fire by taking the hose up a large pine tree which stood next to the building. An engine company from Clarksburg arrived next—making 26 miles in 35 minutes. The Salem Volunteer Fire Department (Member N.F.P.A.) sent an engine from 35 miles away. It was detailed to the local station to cover any other possible fires in Weston. The hose truck from Glenville came a distance of 28 miles. Next, a 750-gallon pumper traveled 48 miles from Elkins. An engine from Thomas reported last—having made a run of 80 miles.

ALL companies responding were members of the mutual aid system, and all except one were volunteer companies. A total of 115 firemen, 6 engines, 2 hose trucks, 1 chemical truck, and 6 ambulances were now on the job. The Weston and Salem companies of the West Virginia National Guard patrolled the grounds and handled the spectators. Governor H. G. Kump, several other state officials, and over 100 state troopers arrived to help.

A section of attic 200 ft. long had burned, and shortly after the fire broke through the ceiling, the large combustible tower collapsed and the entire fourth floor became a mass of flame. Fighting the fire from both ends of this burning section, the firemen did excellent work in preventing its spreading in spite of a strong wind from the south. Within two and one-half hours the fire was out.

Chemical extinguishers are maintained throughout the institution. Standpipe and hose and sprinklers are provided in the administration building, but there were no outside fire escapes on the adjoining wing. Water supply is from two reservoirs and a city connection. Hydrants located around this building are on 6 in. and 8 in. mains, all of which tie together to the three sources of supply. By means of a by-pass, the local water company boosted pressures by pumping directly into the hospital mains.

Fire in the State Hospital for the Insane, Weston, W. Va., showing a cupola over the wards damaged just before its collapse.

The fire was investigated by the State Fire Marshal, F. B. Watkins (Member N.F.P.A.), and the West Virginia Inspection Bureau (Member N.F.P.A.). It was started in the roof space by one of the patients. In his confession he stated that he was responsible for three other minor fires that had occurred within six weeks.

Had this fire occurred at night there probably would have been considerable loss of life and the entire building might have been destroyed. The loss was approximately $45,000.

The following conclusions were among those summarized by the West Virginia Inspection Bureau.

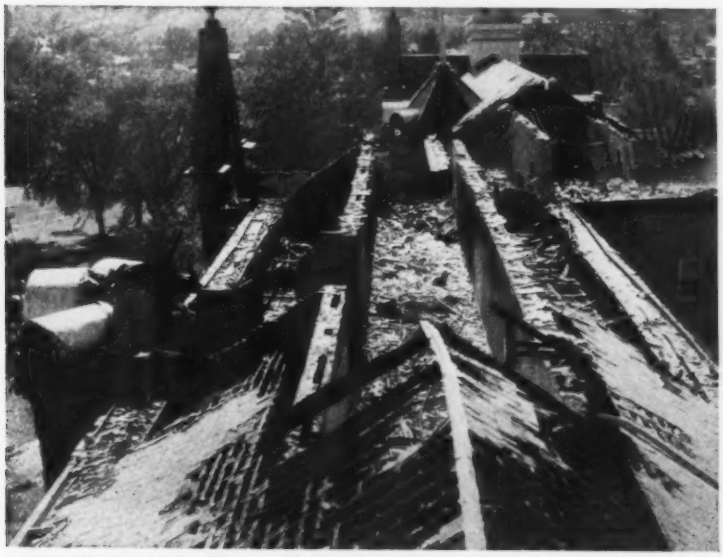
1. Buildings in which large numbers of people are quartered should be of "fireproof" construction.

2. Any building in which large groups of human beings are quartered should be provided with adequate exits.

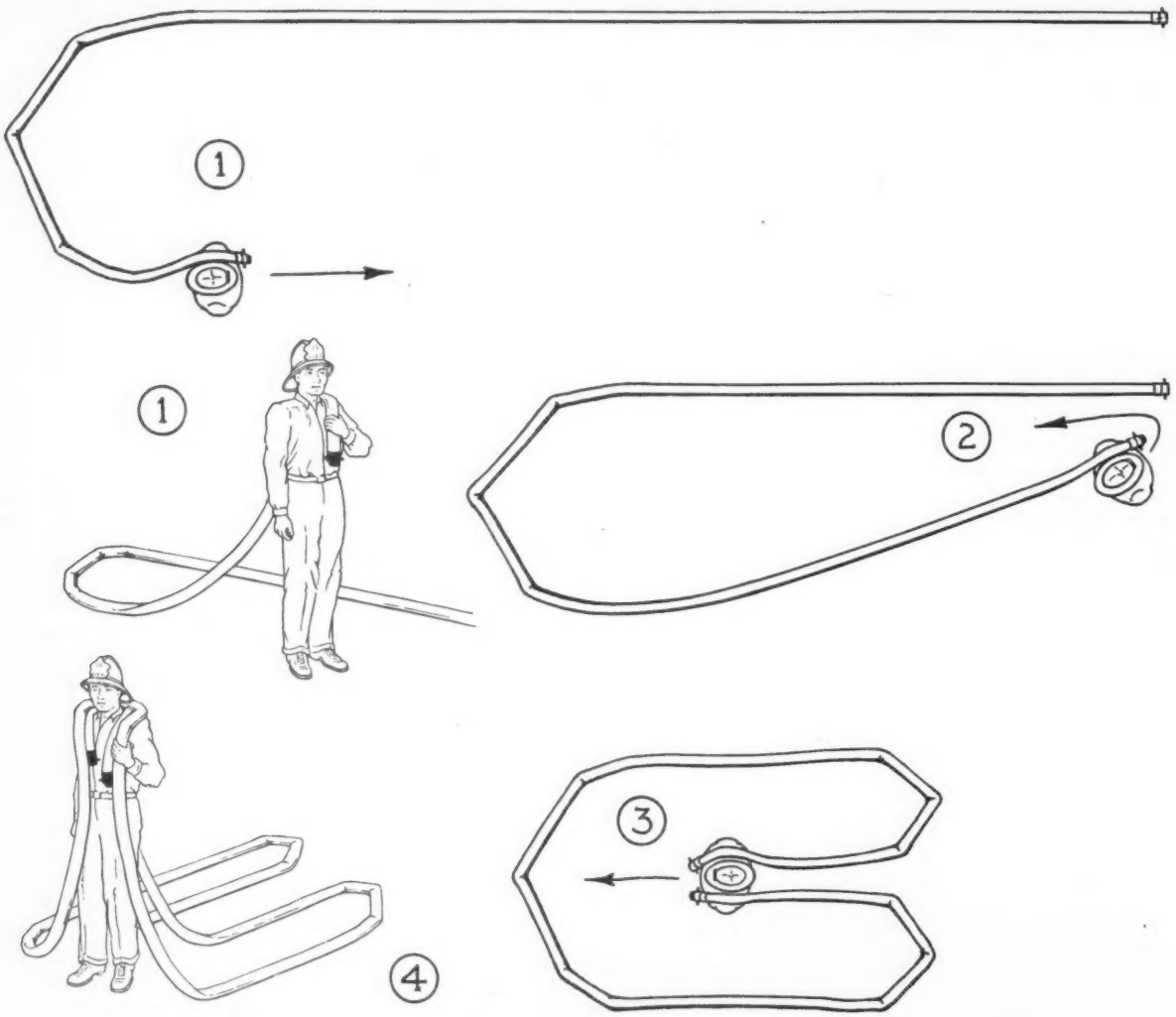
3. Inside stairways should be of "fireproof" construction located in cut-off "fireproof" stair wells.

4. Even though a large number of the patients at this institution are kept confined, regular fire drills would be of considerable value in preventing riots and confusion among the patients who are capable of taking care of themselves.

5. Buildings which are not of "fireproof" construction should be equipped throughout with a standard equipment of automatic sprinklers.



After the fire in the Weston, W. Va., State Hospital for the Insane, showing the construction of the building. Outside walls and corridor partitions were brick or stone, but floors and roof decks were of wood.



One-Man, One-Section Hose Carries

By Bob Criswell
Fire Department Instructor
Ohio Inspection Bureau

THE accompanying sketches illustrate a method whereby one man can carry a section of hose and have his arms and legs free to walk or to climb a ladder.

With the hose stretched out at full length flat on the ground, the man starts at one end by picking up the coupling and bringing it over his shoulder so that it hangs down to about the lower part of his chest—somewhat above his waist. Step 1.

Then he walks over to the other coupling, turns around as shown in Step 2, and picks it up. With a twist of the wrist he places this end of the hose over his other shoulder. The couplings hang straight down over the shoulders. The male coupling should hang a little lower than the female coupling so that the male threads will not be battered in case the couplings bang into each other.

Holding the hose on his chest, he walks toward the center loop as shown in Step 3. Then he picks up the center loop, throws it over his head, lets it rest on the back of his neck, and continues walking as shown in Step 4.

These operations take very little time. The hose may be allowed to drag, or both of the dragging loops may be picked up with the hands.

When climbing a ladder, the loops hang outside of the beams. To unload the hose on the ground the arms are passed behind the hose and the couplings are grasped and swung outward.

ONE man can drag one or a few sections of hose a short distance by placing one end around his hips from one side and holding the coupling on the opposite side with his hand. In this way he can make use of his leg muscles, which are more powerful than those in his arms. This method is useful when preparing to couple hose.

A SECTION of hose rolled in the shape of a doughnut may serve several useful purposes. It may be picked up easily and quickly and carried when an extra section is needed for replacing a burst section or to add to the length of a line.

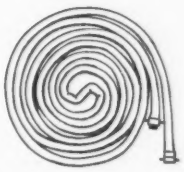
The doughnut roll is started with a section of hose lying flat on the ground. The male end is carried over and placed on top of the hose about four feet from the female end. One man then rolls the loop end while another man guides the slack hose to make rolling easier. The center of the roll should not be made too tight because of possible cramp breakage of the rubber lining, and to allow space for carrying. Care should be taken that the male coupling threads do not cut the hose.

To carry a doughnut roll with the hands, it is stood on its edge with the couplings toward the rear. Putting the hand in the center opening, the roll is lifted up and pressed against the body with the forearm.

Spare hose rolled in this manner makes reloading easier. Rolls may be carried on the running board or in a hose basket. A roll may be placed on top of the regular hose load to be the first section pulled off the truck and to provide slack hose for the hydrant or nozzle man. Another reason for using doughnut rolls in this way is that an additional 50 or 100 feet of hose may be carried which could not otherwise be placed on the bed.

When loading this roll on the hose bed, care should be taken that the roll will come off freely without catching between hose loops or on coupling lugs.

How to Make the "Doughnut" Roll



Cold Weather Is Here

DURING the cold weather types of extinguishers which are not made inoperative by cold may be used in place of the soda-acid and foam type extinguishers which become sluggish in their action at temperatures lower than 40° F. and will freeze almost as quickly as water. Soda-acid and foam extinguishers must never be treated with any chemical in an attempt to prevent freezing. The addition of chemicals causes difficulty in the operation of these extinguishers which may be weakened by corrosion or clogged by the action of such chemicals.

Non-freezing solutions, however, can be satisfactorily kept in water pails, barrels and pump tank extinguishers in warehouses and other unheated buildings. Some departments replace such of their extinguishers as would otherwise freeze with pump tank extinguishers filled with non-freezing solutions. Non-freezing solutions are not satisfactory for use in booster tanks unless the tanks are made especially to resist the corrosion.

The best material for making non-freezing solutions is commercial (75%) calcium chloride. The accompanying table shows how to prepare these solutions with concentrations proportional to the coldness which may be encountered. The concentration can be measured with a hydrometer which should show the results given in the table for the mixtures employed.

To Make Non-Freezing Water Solutions

The following mixtures will make 2½ gallons of a solution which will not freeze at the temperatures given. Commercial 75% calcium chloride (free from magnesium chloride) should be used.

Approximate Freezing Temperature Degrees F.	Water	Calcium Chloride	Specific Gravity
10°	2 gals. 1 qt.	5 lbs.	1.139
zero	2 gals. 1 qt.	6¼ lbs.	1.175
10° below	2 gallons	7 lbs. 6 oz.	1.205
20° below	2 gallons	8 lbs. 6 oz.	1.228
30° below	2 gallons	9 lbs. 2 oz.	1.246
40° below	2 gallons	10 lbs.	1.263

Make This a Safe Christmas

Holiday Fires May Cause Serious Loss and Put Lives of Firemen and Others Needlessly in Danger

LIVES will be lost and many homes will be destroyed by fire during the coming Christmas season in the United States and Canada. The disasters, large and small, which are reported to the newspapers at this time of year are sufficient justification for the time and effort which fire departments put in showing the people of their community how to eliminate holiday fire hazards.

A fireman's effort in this direction may not be wholly unselfish, as he is doing himself a service in preventing Christmas fires. Such fires mean needless runs in cold weather and are harder to fight because of the freezing conditions and cause much suffering and inconvenience to the men who have to fight the fires.

Their efforts directed against the following common Christmas fire hazards may again this year save much suffering and loss.

Flammable decorations and dangerous lighting effects coupled with individual carelessness in millions of homes make ideal settings for destructive fires. Tree trimmings and toys are easily set afire by candles, heat or sparks. Such fires often spread with terrible swiftness.

When it becomes dry an evergreen tree is highly flammable and should not be placed near a fireplace or stove. It should be set up firmly and placed where it will not obstruct an exit from the building. It should be taken out of the house as soon as possible after Christmas Day. If allowed to remain it gets overly dry and is an unnecessarily serious hazard.

In spite of all the education which has been done people will occasionally follow the dangerous practice of placing candles on Christmas trees. Electric lighting units are safer, but care must be taken that the bulbs are tight in their sockets and that heat from them does not ignite branches or decorations. The insulation and the wiring should be checked to make sure that it is in good condition before the lighting units are hung on the tree.

The use of asbestos products instead of cotton wool to imitate snow in decorations is an obvious safety measure. Flammable decorations of paper, cotton or pyroxylin should be kept away from all possible sources of ignition. Decorations that do not burn readily are recommended.

The direction of fire department efforts usually includes a general program to reach the citizens of the community through the local newspapers and through talks at local gatherings. A specific campaign is usually made to insure the safety of people who assemble in crowds in stores during the rush hours of the last minute shopping. Many fire departments assign men to regular inspection work in the stores during the shopping season to see that safety measures are taken.

Particular attention is given to getting combustible rubbish out of the building and preventing the blocking of aisles and exit doors. Local merchants are often thoughtless with respect to such conditions, but are usually glad to co-operate with the fire department when it is pointed out that a small fire or even the cry of fire may cause panic in a crowded place.

Let's Have No Babb Switch Christmas Disaster This Year

One Christmas 33 persons lost their lives in Babb Switch, Oklahoma. A small community without a fire department, there was no one to warn against the dangers which threatened its families as they assembled in the little schoolhouse for a community Christmas celebration.

The resulting disaster is especially remarkable because the large loss of life occurred in a one-story building. Usually, people may escape from one-story buildings through the windows. The Babb Switch School's windows were covered with a heavy wire grille to keep out marauders when the building was closed. There was but one exit door which opened inward.

The Christmas tree was decorated with lighted candles, and not being set up securely, was toppled over and burst into flames. In the resulting panic, a hopeless jam occurred at the one exit.

Fire starting in a Christmas tree in this dwelling caused the loss of two lives.

Flushing Radiators and Testing Batteries

25

Q. *How often should the radiator of motor fire apparatus be flushed out, and how should it be done?*

A. At least every three months the radiator should be thoroughly flushed out with large quantities of water.

First, the drain cock should be opened and the contents allowed to drain out. Then a garden hose should be inserted in the filler port and water passed through the radiator until it drains out clear. If there is no water system, several buckets of water will serve the purpose.

With the drain cock still open and with a quantity of water being maintained in the radiator, the engine should be run at idle speed. This permits water to circulate through the cooling system and clean it. When the water draining out shows clear again, the flushing process is completed.

After closing the drain cock, the radiator should be refilled with clean water. All water line connections should be frequently inspected and kept free from leaks.

The construction of motor fire apparatus radiators should be such that they will not quickly clog or corrode. A drain cock should be installed at the lowest point of the cooling system. and at other places where necessary to completely remove water from the system.

26

Q. *How is the condition of charge of lead-plate-acid storage batteries determined? How low may cells be allowed to test and still permit the starting motor to crank the engine?*

A. Condition of charge is measured by a hydrometer which tests the specific gravity of the battery electrolyte. Readings on each cell should be taken every week.

The main feature of the hydrometer instrument is a glass tube. By means of a rubber bulb on one end, a syringe is formed by means of which liquid may be drawn up into the tube. Inside the tube, arranged so that it will float when the hydrometer tube is partly filled, is a float with a scale attached. The specific gravity of a liquid is revealed by the scale which registers the depth to which the float sinks.

Electrolyte from a storage battery cell may be drawn into the hydrometer tube. Enough electrolyte is taken in so that the inside scale floats freely and the figure is read on the floating scale nearest the surface of the liquid. It is important that the electrolyte be returned to the same cell as that from which it is taken.

In cold weather it is important that the battery be kept at full strength. The battery will start the motor when the specific gravity is as low as 1.200 or even lower, but at specific gravities much below 1.200 it is not possible to get enough power from the battery to turn the engine over in cold weather.

The following readings indicate how fully the battery is charged:

1.275 to 1.300 sp. gr.	fully charged
1.250 sp. gr.	three-quarters charged
1.215 sp. gr.	one-half charged
1.180 sp. gr.	one-quarter charged
1.100 sp. gr.	totally discharged

Problem Questions
FOR DECEMBER

Suggested for discussion at company and department meetings this month

27

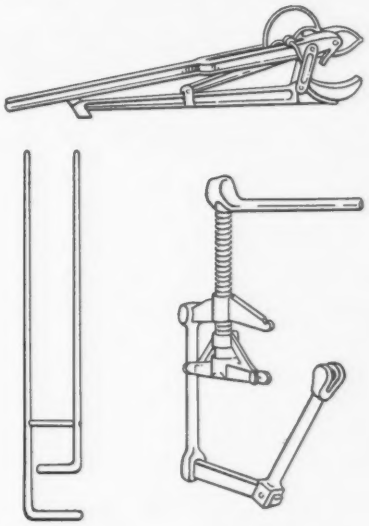
Will the first layout of 500 ft. of 2½ in. hose collapse when laid between hydrant and pumper (hydrant pressure 65 lbs.), with 500 ft. of 2½ in. hose from pumper to fire with a 1 in. nozzle tip?

28

How would you thaw out a frozen fire hydrant?

Watch for the answers in the next issue of VOLUNTEER FIREMEN

Fire Tools



Hose Clamps

A HOSE clamp is used to shut off water from a hose line by pinching it. It often saves valuable time when removing burst sections, lengthening hose lines, changing from hand streams to cellar pipes, placing a siamese connection on a line, and changing nozzle tips. Its use cuts to a minimum the time required to shut off a line and recharge it again.

It may be used to relieve the pressure on a line that is to be carried up a ladder. The coupling may be broken and the water in line allowed to drain out as it is taken up the ladder. Then when the line is in position, it may be coupled together again and the clamp removed to recharge the line.

The most common type of hose clamp is the Peerless. It is shown at the top in the accompanying sketches, in a position ready to receive the hose line between the jaws.

Another type, shown in the lower right sketch, is similar to a pipe vise.

The third type of clamp (shown in "closed" position) twists a line into an S-shaped loop that pinches the hose.

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Farm Fire Protection A conference was held in Chicago during October at the time of the meetings of the Farm Fire Protection Committee of the National Fire Protection Association and the Agricultural Committee of the National Fire Waste Council to consider ways and means of securing better fire protection for farm properties. It was generally agreed that there are three vital factors in providing reasonable fire protection for farms: (1) the establishment of a rural fire department in accordance with the standards for such departments published by the N.F.P.A.; (2) the provision of some form of water supply on the farm property; and (3) a telephone on the farm property to insure prompt notification to the fire department of a fire.

The Number of Fire Departments In developing the Volunteer Firemen's Section of the National Fire Protection Association the executive office has built up a complete record of the fire departments of the United States and Canada. There are some 450 fire departments, mostly fully paid, serving the cities of over 20,000 population. Special attention has been given, however, to the volunteer and part paid fire departments serving the communities with populations less than these figures. Such communities are assumed to have problems which give them claim to special treatment. The relatively few large city fire departments (less than 4 percent of the total) are not included in the figures given following.

The list of fire departments numbers 12,139 in the United States and Canada. Of these, 561 are in Canada. For individual states and provinces, the count ranges from 8 in Alaska to 1261 in Pennsylvania. Our records show 1109 departments in New England, 1009 in New York State, 610 in Ohio, 648 in Iowa, 393 in Texas and 264 in California.

Raising Funds Many volunteer fire departments receive only partial funds for operation from their communities. Many others receive no funds at all and are wholly dependent on their powers of persuasion and ingenuity to secure money for equipment and operation.

We believe that it would make an interesting and valuable study if we could compile data from every volunteer fire department in the United States and Canada on just how funds are obtained for operating their departments or companies. We would see that the information is published for the benefit of all volunteer companies.

You may have carried through a successful campaign for funds that is just what some other department would like to use. We will appreciate hearing from any volunteer fire department that raises its own funds as to methods employed.

Liability for Careless Fires In France or Germany any person whose careless act may have caused a fire is hailed before a magistrate for any damages to neighbors' property and may be assessed the costs of the fire department for putting out the fire. Because of this generally accepted principle, the careless fire in these countries is a rarity.

While the principle of personal liability for fires due to carelessness or neglect is not inconsistent with English Common Law, on which jurisprudence in the United States and Canada is based, it has not had wide application in this part of the world. Several states and a number of cities and towns have, however, enacted liability provisions into their laws or ordinances.

The National Fire Protection Association has just issued a brochure on the subject embodying up-to-date information on legislation and court cases. A copy will be mailed without charge to any reader interested.

New Members and Renewals First applications for membership in the Volunteer Firemen's Section continue to come in, and nearly all old members are renewing when their memberships expire. The fire companies or departments listed below with 216 men have sent in their applications since the last issue of VOLUNTEER FIREMEN. Twenty-three departments with 513 men have renewed their memberships. The total membership is now 9,123 firemen.

Delano Volunteer Fire Department No. 1, Delano, California.

Needles Fire Department, Needles, California.

Seal Beach Volunteer Fire Department, Seal Beach, California.

Plainfield Fire Department, Plainfield, Illinois.

Peterborough Fire Department, Peterborough, New Hampshire.

Plymouth Fire Company, Plymouth, New Hampshire.

The Bender Hose Company No. 2, Niagara Falls, Ontario.

Conroe Volunteer Fire Department, Conroe, Texas.

Cape Charles Fire Department, Cape Charles, Virginia.

Adams Fire Department, Adams, Wisconsin.

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Here's the Membership Plan . . . . .

Volunteer Firemen's Section
National Fire Protection Association

WHERE twenty or more firemen in a volunteer company or department affiliate with the Volunteer Firemen's Section the cost is 50 cents a year *per man*. Each fireman will receive one copy of VOLUNTEER FIREMEN, the monthly journal of the Volunteer Firemen's Section, mailed regularly to his home address. The company or department automatically becomes a member of the National Fire Protection Association and is entitled to full privileges of membership. All the literature regularly issued to N.F.P.A. members is mailed to headquarters of the company or department.

Membership may be applied for by one member of the company or department collecting 50 cents for each of the 20 or more members and making a single remittance for the group, or the company or department may take a membership for its men and make a single remittance from the company or department treasury.

Companies with Less than Twenty Members

Because of the large amount of material mailed to members, not less than $10.00 can be accepted from any company or department for membership dues. In the case of companies or departments with less than twenty men this means that the cost divided among them will be slightly higher per man. Of course, some such companies or departments may prefer to make a single remittance of $10.00 from the company or department treasury. In other cases a few interested citizens, not members of the company or department, may be glad to contribute 50 cents apiece to make up the required minimum of twenty, so that the members may secure the rate of 50 cents per man.

These companies or departments have full privileges of N.F.P.A. membership as above, and each member receives the monthly magazine, VOLUNTEER FIREMEN, at his home.

You still have time to
Order your copy of . . .

The Volunteer Fire Company

By

William Draper Brinckloe

This book is an attractive volume of 160 pages and 24 illustrations of volunteer fire department apparatus, equipment and fire fighting methods.

It was written by a volunteer fireman. It contains 14 chapters of as interesting reading as a good novel.

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National Fire Protection Association

60 Batterymarch Street
Boston, Massachusetts

Rules . . .

PYRENE PRIZE LETTER CONTEST

1. Contestants in the Pyrene Prize Letter Contest must be members of their local fire department.

2. Letters are to describe actual experiences where any approved fire extinguisher of any make has saved lives or property.

3. Trade names may be used but will be deleted in publication. Publishers reserve the right to edit winning letters to permit publication.

4. Each contestant automatically vouches for the truth of the facts presented from his own or others' experiences.

5. Only one letter may be submitted each month.

6. Letters must be legibly written in ink or typewritten on white paper, one side only. Preference will be given to letters not over 250 words in length.

7. Letters received after the 15th of the month will be judged in following month's competition.

8. Monthly prizes in cash will be: 1st, $10.00; 2nd, $3.00; and 3rd, $2.00.

9. Address contest letter to Pyrene Prize Letter Contest, National Fire Protection Association, 60 Batterymarch Street, Boston, Mass.

Wins Cash Award for Second Time

Prizes in Pyrene Prize Letter Contest Go for Best Stories Involving Use of Extinguishers

CHIEF JARVIS of Wynne, Arkansas, second prize winner this month, has rung the bell in this contest for the second time. He took first honors in the August contest. That a contestant previously has been a winner is no bar to his consideration for an award. The story of Chief Jarvis' forethought in putting uncharged extinguishers in proper shape, and quick action which saved a man's life, merits an award and it gets it.

Of course, the soda-acid extinguisher is not the type best suited to gasoline fires. The first prize story this month shows the greater effectiveness of a foam type, which is designed for such fires involving gasoline.

Last month several stories recounted fires where a type not recommended for the kind of fire was used. But they showed what can be done with extinguishers, even under unfavorable conditions, when extinguishers are intelligently used by operators familiar with their use and limitations.

FIRST PRIZE — $10.00

CHAS. T. HUDGINS, *Captain*
Fire Department, Cynthiana, Ky.

Foam Stops Flow of Gasoline

"About noon on September 11 I was at my home. In front of the machine shop across the street, a mechanic was using an arc welder on the battery carrier of a school bus. He accidentally touched the gas line with the electrode, burning a hole in the line and igniting the gasoline.

"In about two seconds the street under the bus was a mass of flame. I saw that they would not be able to handle the fire with their small carbon tetrachloride extinguisher, so I sent for our ladder and hose truck which carries one 2½-gallon foam and two 2½-gallon soda-acid extinguishers.

"I had one of our boys apply the contents of the foam extinguisher directly on the hole in the gasoline line. The pressure and action of the foam shut off the gasoline long enough for us to wash away the burning gasoline and cool the surroundings with another extinguisher. Due to the combination of our foam and soda-acid extinguishers, we saved our county school bus which cost about $1500."

SECOND PRIZE — $3.00

C. B. JARVIS, *Chief*
Fire Department, Wynne, Ark.

Value of Keeping Extinguishers Charged

"When employed in the Highway Department shop in April 1933, I had worked only a few days when I discovered that five extinguishers in the shop were not charged. I cleaned and charged them, and hung them in convenient places.

"About six months later one of the men was cleaning a truck motor, using gasoline in an air spray gun. He hit the starter switch, igniting the gas and catching himself and bucket of gasoline on fire. Being excited, he threw the bucket of gasoline over his shoulder into the corner of the shop where motor oil was stored, and started to run out of the shop.

"I was on the outside when I heard him and saw a flash. Starting to run inside, I met him at the door. Two other men and I jerked off his clothes. He was severely burned.

"I shouted for everyone to get an extinguisher. In a few seconds the fire was extinguished."

THIRD PRIZE — $2.00

PETE STILLENS, *Secretary*
Fire Dept., Mountain View, Calif.

Auto Fire Easily Extinguished

"A passing motorist noticed that three boys were frantically fighting a fire in their automobile. Driving to a telephone, he sent in an alarm, but not being familiar with the streets he gave the location as being at the Highway Grammar School.

"In the meantime one of our volunteers saw the predicament that the boys were in and grabbed the carbon tetrachloride extinguisher from the gasoline truck he was driving. He had the fire out in no time. Not knowing an alarm had been sent in, he and the boys went their ways.

"As the alarm came in for the school, the Chief ordered out all apparatus and looked in vain for a fire. The mystery was solved when the fireman reported the good deed done with his carbon tetrachloride extinguisher."

HONORABLE MENTION

SYLVAN S. WAGENHEIM
Susquehanna Fire Co., Harrisburg, Pa.

JOHN DANIEL, *Secretary*
Volunteer Fire Dept., Beach Haven, N. J.

LEO R. MILLER, *Secretary*
West End Fire Assn., Kulpmont, Pa.

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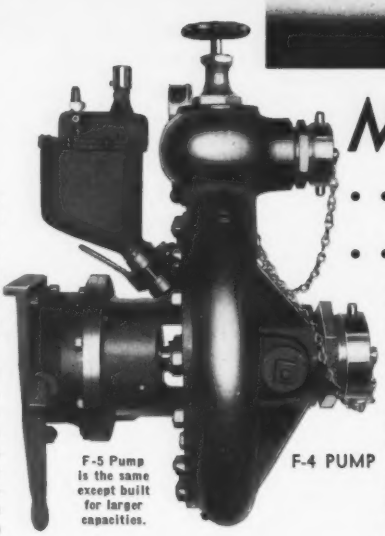

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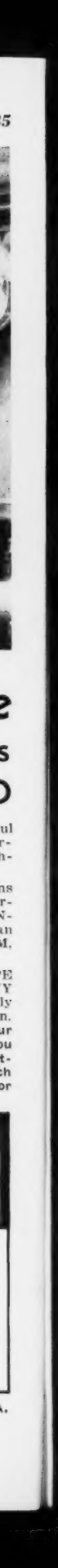
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